

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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Resolution

Continuation after the Beijing Congress of the study on the mission, structure and management of the Union's work

Congress,

In view of
the report submitted by the Council of Administration on improving the management of the Union's work (Congrès-Doc 69),

Noting
the amendment of the wording of the UPU's mission to include the right to a universal postal service (resolution CA 10/1998),

Considering
the recommendations on the functioning of the Councils (proposals 020 and 024),

Considering also
the recommendations on the status of members (proposals 15. 106.91, 15. 102.5 and 19. 5.1) and on increased participation of interested parties in the Union's work – government policies on postal issues (proposal 018),

Noting as well
the progress in improving the programme and budget system and the continuing interest in alternative means for financing non-mandatory activities,

Recognizing
the fundamental changes occurring in the postal and related physical delivery service sectors, such as the continuing liberalization of postal services, the increasing exposure of international postal services to competition, the new relationships emerging between postal and private delivery operators, and the opening of domestic markets to foreign service suppliers in accordance with principles derived from the World Trade Organization and the General Agreement on Trade in Services,

Convinced
of the need to continue the review process and take new measures on an urgent basis, prior to the next Congress if necessary,

Instructs

the Council of Administration, in consultation with the Postal Operations Council and the International Bureau, to:

Is
14.4.1999

- i continue seeking, as a matter of priority, ways of improving all aspects of the Union's structure and of the management of its work;
- ii continue reviewing the Union and its activities in a transparent manner, particularly as regards:
 - a the Union's mission, including its foundation in the universal service obligation and the single postal territory, and whether and to what extent it could be expanded to include promoting and encouraging communications between peoples by the efficient operation of the service of all operators, public and private, for cultural social and economic purposes;
 - b the governmental and operational roles and responsibilities of the bodies of the Union with respect to the provision of international postal services and whether and how they could be further clarified, distinguished and separately carried out;
 - c the UPU Secretariat and how the support it gives to the bodies of the Union could better reflect the differences between the governmental and operational responsibilities of the UPU and better serve the different needs of the two Councils;
 - d the UPU Acts and whether and how they could be further revised to reflect an expanded role for the UPU with respect to the activities of all operators, public and private, while continuing to provide a basis for member countries to ensure the provision of a universal service on a global scale;
 - e the system of financing the different types of Union activities and the possibilities for attracting new sources of revenue through optional financing arrangements;
 - f cooperation with the World Customs Organization, including the possibilities for extending simplified postal customs clearance procedures to similar shipments carried by all operators, public or private, and for revising the Kyoto Convention accordingly;
 - g competition between and among postal administrations and private delivery operators and how to ensure that the UPU can continue to support the provision of a universal postal service and the needs of developing countries while not giving undue or unreasonable preference to any group of operators;
- iii in a process open to input from the public and private sectors, formulate proposals for further reform based on the work described above:
 - a for implementation as soon as possible and prior to the next Congress, as appropriate;
 - b for submission to the next Congress for approval;
- iv invite member countries to convene an Extraordinary Congress in 2001, if necessary and appropriate, in order to implement reforms as soon as possible;
- v see to it that all UPU members wishing to do so have the opportunity to participate effectively in the work described above;
- vi ensure that other interested parties, including organizations representing users of postal services and private operators, are also consulted and given an opportunity to contribute.